

Around the Nation

Gangland Enforcer Linked to CIA Plots On Castro Is Killed

CHICAGO—A gangland enforcer described by sources as a key man in a Central Intelligence Agency-crime syndicate plot to kill Cuban President Fidel Castro died Wednesday—the victim of a mob assassination.

Charles Nicoletti, 60, of Melrose Park, once capo of Chicago mob hit men, was pulled from his burning car in the parking lot of a suburban restaurant Tuesday night after being shot three times in the head.

Sources said Nicoletti, onetime right-hand man to slain mob boss Sam Giancana and once considered the successor to the top spot in the Chicago mob, had been responsible for drawing up CIA-ordered plans for the assassination of Castro. They also said he broke with the mob following Giancana's death because he felt the CIA "was taking over the operation."

The CIA-syndicate deal reportedly called for at least tacit CIA cooperation in smuggling prostitutes from Marseilles, France, into the United States to staff mob-operated brothels in Las Vegas and elsewhere, sources said.